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There are no vital statistics kept by the authorities and no registration of births and deaths.

To tuberculosis the greatest number of deaths is attributed. Owing to the altitude, 6,200 feet, and to the long and severe winters, lasting nearly eight months, the progress of tuberculosis is very rapid.

Rheumatic maladies are general, beginning, usually, in April. Sufferers from rheumatism go in summer to Hassankala or to Ilija, the latter place but two hours from Erzerum, where there are hot baths containing potash. Wonderful cures are ascribed to these natural springs.

A serious menace to the general health of the people is the dissemination of syphilis by the practice of vaccination, already mentioned, and through sexual infection. This disease is frequently found in the tertiary period. Although prostitution is prohibited and houses of ill-fame forbidden, the law is not enforced.

In February of this year the city was visited by influenza, which was introduced from the Caucasus. Every class was attacked, but the disease was not severe.

In June the attention of the physicians and the authorities was called to a skin eruption among porters of the city engaged in carrying bags of lime. The weather being warm, these laborers worked with their necks and shoulders bare, and the rubbing of the bags and the action of the lime and the perspiration of their bodies produced an aggravated form of erysipelas, which soon rendered the men unfit for work.

A recommendation was made by the sanitary inspector to prevent the recurrence of this malady.

#### TURKEY.

[ Report No. 226. ]

#### *Sanitary report from Constantinople—Public health in Constantinople.*

CONSTANTINOPLE, August 23, 1899.

SIR: Public health in Constantinople is good. There is no epidemic to notify. There are many cases of whooping cough as well as of infectious diarrhea in children, but I do not think I could state there is an epidemic of said diseases. The number of deaths registered from the 7th to the 21st instant is 381, of which 4 are from diphtheria, 1 from measles, 10 from typhoid fever, and 11 from acute inflammation of the respiratory apparatus.

#### SANITARY CONDITION OF THE PROVINCES.

The official news from the provinces concerning public health is good. The official news concerning the sanitary service is not very satisfactory. At two or three consecutive sittings the superior sanitary commission has been, and is still discussing the question of the sanitary service of Bassorah. I have already reported how difficult and important is the sanitary position of said city where nearly all the sanitary physicians have failed. At last the sanitary board has appointed there Dr. Moschides, a sanitary physician whose services at Camaran in the Red Sea have been very much appreciated by the sanitary board. In fact, he is a man of science, skill, and uprightness. Unhappily on account of said latter qualities he can not stay at Bassorah where some of the steamship agents can not afford to see that the execution of quarantine regulations hinders trade and navigation. Said steamship agents have plotted against the sanitary physician. It is the British sanitary commission who communicated said fact to the sanitary commission.

The sanitary officials at Bassorah receive no aid from the authorities, and if plague which exists in the neighborhood (Buschir-Bendir Dilun) spreads in Turkey certainly that the Bassorah sanitary office must not be considered responsible. Therefore, at the last sitting of the superior sanitary commission when a strong requisitory against Dr. Moschides

from the governor of Bassorah was communicated, it was decided to forward to the Ottoman Government a report on said question by which the sanitary board complains against the governor of Bassorah, who by his behavior and support to the steamship agents paralyses the sanitary service which is brought into discredit and exposes that part of the Empire to real danger.

In my last report I laid stress on the circular announcing the decision of the superior sanitary commission concerning the diagnosis of the sanitary physicians in cases of plague, cholera, or yellow fever. I am happy to report to-day that said circular has been revoked and substituted by the one which I have the honor to forward. To the question of the Smyrna sanitary physician if horses were allowed to be embarked in Alexandria and pass through Turkey going to Russia, and if house furniture could be delivered to its proprietors at the lazaretto without being previously disinfected, the superior sanitary commission has decided to allow the passage of the horses, as well as to deliver the house furniture, without any previous disinfection.

#### PLAGUE EPIDEMIC IN EGYPT AND PORTUGAL.

Plague cases in Alexandria still continue to be registered. Up to the 21st instant 85 plague cases have been registered, of which 41 proved fatal. The last plague fatality was registered the 21st instant. Dr. Duca, the Ottoman sanitary representative in the International Sanitary Convention in Alexandria, reports under date 16th instant, that if plague cases are not so frequently reported it is not because said cases do not occur, but because the inhabitants hide them. A few days ago the corpse of some lady, dead from plague, was found in one of the morgues of the city. Said corpse had been abandoned there in order to prevent the segregation of the family in the lazaretto of Gabbari and the disinfection of the house. There is, Dr. Duca states, a plague focus which can not be destroyed, being unknown to the authorities.

Among the patients present at the polyclinic of the Greek hospital in Alexandria, there was one who presented two buboes on the same side, the first in the inguinal cavity, and the second in the crural one. The hospital physicians, after an exhaustive examination, have considered said case as a plague one. The sanitary inspector of the town did not agree with them, but Dr. Duca states that the hospital physician, whose duty is to attend only plague patients, has made the diagnosis of bubonic plague (*pestis ambulatoria*). The outbreak of plague at Oporto was communicated at the last sitting of the superior sanitary commission. It has been decided that ships coming from Portugal would undergo a ten days' quarantine. On said plague outbreak a discussion arose on the efficiency of the quarantine and sanitary regulations (the decisions of the sanitary conference of Venice), to which ships are subjected at Aden.

In said discussion it has been moved to convoke an extraordinary sitting of said sanitary commission for the thorough discussion of said question under a scientific point of view as well as under that of efficiency, but some of the members objected that it would not be convenient to undertake said discussion on decisions already accepted by the different governments the sanitary representatives of which sit in said superior sanitary commission.

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